

From: Paul Larson
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/23/02 9:38am
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

I believe that the current proposed settlement in the Microsoft Antitrust case would not effectively deal with Microsoft's anticompetitive behaviour. As a software engineer who has worked in the computer field for about 8 years, I have been a first hand witness to Microsoft's behaviour. I have no doubt that Microsoft has set back the computer industry countless years through their anticompetitive practices.

I tend to be of the opinion that splitting Microsoft 3 ways (or possibly more) is the best way to deal with the problem, while still allowing those companies that form from the breakup good, solid business opportunities with competitors on equal footing. Although this would have been a win-win situation for Microsoft, its competitors, and especially the consumers, I have been sorry to hear that it was taken off the table for possibilities.

There are too many problems with this proposed settlement to list hear. It doesn't punish them really, and in fact gives them better opportunity for worse anticompetitive practices in the future. It's no wonder that Microsoft is eager to accept this settlement.

Either we can fix the problem now, and fix it right, or we will continually have to revisit these and more problems with Microsoft in the future. Please, for the sake of consumers and businesses alike, DO NOT accept the current settlement with Microsoft.

Sincerely,
Paul Larson